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**FORMER CHICO STUDENT PLEADS  
GUILTY TO COUNTERFEITING U.S. CURRENCY**

SACRAMENTO--United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced today that BRIAN JOEL KELLY, 26, formerly of Butte County, pled guilty today before United States District Judge Frank C. Damrell, Jr to counterfeiting securities of the United States, and aiding and abetting.

This case is the product of extensive investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and its Safe Streets Task Force, comprised of the Butte County Sheriff's office, the Butte County District Attorney's office, the Secret Service, and other local law enforcement in and around Butte County.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Michelle Rodriguez, who is prosecuting the case, BRIAN JOEL KELLY admitted that from early November 2004 through February 2005 he practiced making and successfully made with his criminal associates counterfeit U.S. currency. KELLY obtained similar quality paper and used a scanner and copier to produce the currency. KELLY made and forged the currency for fraudulent use and payment of debt. KELLY admitted uttering approximately \$10,000 in counterfeit currency. In February 2005, during a state probation search, law enforcement determined that KELLY possessed partially completed five dollar federal reserve notes.

KELLY's sentencing date is set for November 14, 2005 at 9:30 a.m. He faces a maximum penalty of 20 years imprisonment, a three-year term of supervised release, and a fine of up to \$250,000.

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